

# MICHIGAN WILD TURKEY HUNTING GUIDE

**2002 FALL SEASON**

Application Period July 1–August 1, 2002

Apply online at [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)



## **Important Changes for 2002:**

- Ten more counties open to hunting, mostly on private land
- Some hunt units have been expanded or reduced
- Second kill tag not available
- Persons who don't apply still have an opportunity to purchase a leftover license



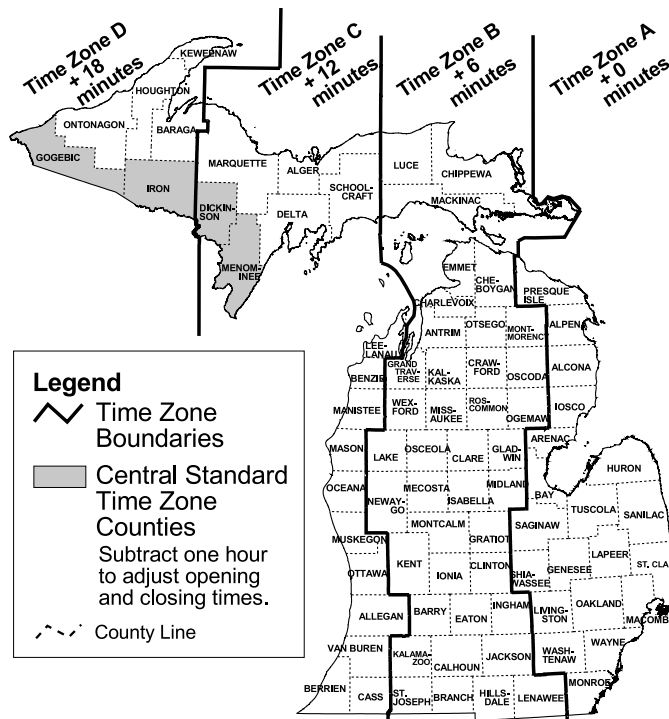
## Fall Turkey Hunting Hours

Below is a map of the 2002 hunting hour zones. Actual legal hunting hours (one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset) for Zone A are printed below. To determine the opening (a.m.) or closing (p.m.) time for any day in another zone, add the minutes shown on the map for the zone to the time from the Zone A table.

The hunting hour listed in the table reflects Eastern Standard Time adjusted for Daylight Savings Time where appropriate. If you are hunting in **Dickinson, Iron or Menominee** counties (Central Standard Time), you must make an additional adjustment to the printed time by subtracting one hour.

**Zone A Hunting Hours Table.**  
One-half hour before sunrise to  
one-half hour after sunset  
(adjusted for Daylight Savings Time).

Add the minutes indicated below to the times listed in Table A.



2002	Oct.		Nov.	
Date	AM	PM	AM	PM
1			6:39	5:57
2			6:41	5:56
3			6:42	5:54
4			6:43	5:53
5			6:44	5:52
6			6:46	5:51
7			6:47	5:49
8			6:48	5:48
9			6:49	5:47
10			6:51	5:46
11			6:52	5:45
12			6:53	5:44
13			6:55	5:43
14			6:56	5:42
15			6:57	5:41
16			6:58	5:40
17			7:00	5:39
18			7:01	5:39
19			7:02	5:38
20			7:03	5:38
21			7:05	5:36
22	7:27	7:11	7:06	5:36
23	7:28	7:10	7:07	5:35
24	7:29	7:08	7:08	5:34
25	7:30	7:07	7:09	5:34
26	7:32	7:05	7:11	5:33
27	7:33	7:04	7:12	5:33
28	6:34	6:02	7:13	5:32
29	6:35	6:01	7:14	5:32
30	6:37	6:00	7:15	5:31
31	6:38	5:58		



### **Wild Turkey Management**

Managing wild turkeys in Michigan involves the complex interactions of turkey populations and their habitat and their relationship to people. Hunting plays an important role in the management of turkeys by regulating their numbers. The goal of the spring wild turkey hunting season is to maximize hunter opportunity while maintaining a satisfactory hunting experience. Limited to gobblers only, this conservative harvest approach has allowed the continued growth and expansion of the wild turkey population in Michigan. Wild turkey hunting in the fall enables the DNR to stabilize or reduce wild turkey numbers in certain areas of the state to meet local goals based on habitat conditions and public attitudes. License quotas are developed to harvest the desired number of turkeys to meet the management goal. To help reach these goals, hunters are encouraged to harvest female turkeys during the fall season.

## General Rules

**Hunting Hours**—It is unlawful to take or attempt to take a turkey except from 1/2 hour before local sunrise to 1/2 hour after local sunset. See the hunting hours in this guide.

**Bag Limit**—One turkey (any sex) per licensed hunter. It is unlawful to take or possess a turkey that you did not kill.

**Hunting Methods**—Hunters may use a bow and arrow, a firearm which fires a shotgun shell or a muzzleloading shotgun for turkey hunting. It is unlawful to use or carry any ammunition except shotgun shells loaded with No. 4 or smaller shot, or to use or carry loose shot larger than No. 4 for muzzleloading hunting. Archery hunters may hunt turkeys from an elevated stand or tree. A hunter using, or in possession of, a firearm may not hunt from an elevated stand or tree. Turkeys may be hunted with dogs during the fall season. Electronic recordings are illegal. Turkeys may not be taken while they are in a tree.

**Authority to Hunt**—A person shall not hunt wild turkeys in any area or during any hunt period other than the area and hunt period designated on their license.

**Validating Kills**—Immediately after killing a turkey, a person shall validate their license by cutting out the appropriate information as instructed on the license and by wrapping and securing the license around a leg of the bird.

A person shall not have in their possession or transport a turkey unless the turkey license is attached to a leg of the turkey and the appropriate information is cut on the turkey license. (The license is no longer valid after cutting.)

**Baiting Prohibited**—It is unlawful to hunt for, take, or attempt to take wild turkeys over bait. For the purpose of this regulation, “bait” means a substance composed of grain, fruit, vegetables or other food placed to lure or entice wild turkeys. This does not apply to standing farm crops (normal agricultural practices) or other natural growing grains, fruits or vegetables.

**License**—The license is not valid unless signed by the successful applicant. Licenses cannot be altered or transferred.

**Decoys**—Mechanical, electronic or live decoys are prohibited. Mechanical decoy means any device that by design or construction uses motion as a visual stimulus to attract a wild turkey, except a wind sock or similar decoy body anchored at a fixed point into the ground and whose only motion is derived exclusively by power of the natural wind.

## Recreational Trespass

This law requires permission from the landowner or lease holder before you may hunt on any farmlands or connected woodlots or on any fenced or posted private lands and prohibits discharge of a firearm within the right-of-way of public roads adjacent to these lands without permission of the landowner.

## Wild Turkey Cooperator Patch

The Michigan chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, in partnership with the DNR, is coordinating Michigan's wild turkey patch program.

Young hunters, ages 12-17, who have a valid wild turkey hunting license may receive a free patch. Adult hunters, collectors and other interested individuals may purchase the patch for \$5, including postage and handling. To receive a patch, please send name and complete address, along with a legible copy of the youth's valid wild turkey hunting license, to National Wild Turkey Federation, Wild Turkey Patch Program, P.O. Box 8, Orleans, MI 48865. Individuals who are purchasing the patch should make their check or money order payable to the National Wild Turkey Federation.

The NWTF is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of the American wild turkey and the preservation of the hunting tradition. Proceeds from patch sales will be used to fund wild turkey-related projects in Michigan. Each year the NWTF, working cooperatively with the DNR, contributes more than \$300,000 to wild turkey and hunter-heritage programs in Michigan.



The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act places an excise tax on firearms, handguns, ammunition and archery equipment. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service apportions these funds to state wildlife agencies to be used for wildlife management, research, habitat acquisition, game area and shooting range development and hunter education. Since its inception in 1937, Michigan's share of the Wildlife Restoration funds has reached almost \$150 million.

## Application Information

- You must be 12 years old by the time a license is purchased.
- Review application guide and follow instructions under How to Apply.
- You must pay a \$4 nonrefundable fee at the time of application.
- You may apply
  - at any authorized license dealer
  - at DNR Operations Service Centers throughout the state
  - online at [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)
- It is best to apply using a valid Michigan Driver License number.
- Keep your mailing address up to date with the Secretary of State.
- Verify the customer ID (Michigan Driver License, DNR Sportcard or state of Michigan ID card) numbers were correctly entered. An incorrect customer ID may cause you to become ineligible for a license.
- Verify that your information was correctly entered and keep your application receipt.
- You may apply only once, either as an individual or with one partner.
  - The first applicant of each partnership will supply the hunt area choice and receive a “partnership identification” number. The other partner will need this ID number, when applying, to complete the partnership.
- Applicants who apply more than once, falsify information or apply with more than one party member will be ineligible for the drawing.
- It is unlawful to apply more than once or to purchase more than one fall turkey hunting license.
- If successful, you must go to a license dealer to purchase your turkey hunting license. You do not need to have your notification card with you when you purchase your license.
  - Both individuals in a partnership must purchase a license.
  - All licenses must be signed to be valid.
  - Your signature on the license certifies that you meet applicable residency and hunter safety requirements to purchase a Michigan hunting license.
  - Licenses may not be altered or transferred.

### Fall Turkey License Costs

Item Number	Name	Cost
160	Fall Turkey Application	\$4.00
161	Turkey Fall Resident License	\$14.00
162	Turkey Fall Senior License	\$5.60
163	Turkey Fall Nonresident License*	\$65.00

\*Nonresidents under age 17 may purchase a resident license.

**Drawing results will be posted August 27 at 10 a.m.  
at [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)**

**All applicants, except those who applied online,  
will be mailed a postcard by September 3.**

### Assistance

If you encounter problems with your fall wild turkey application, you can obtain assistance by calling 517-373-3904. All inquiries regarding your application must be made prior to August 1. Following the drawing, you can call this number if you also need assistance with purchasing a license or if you have not received a notification card by September 6.

### Leftover Licenses

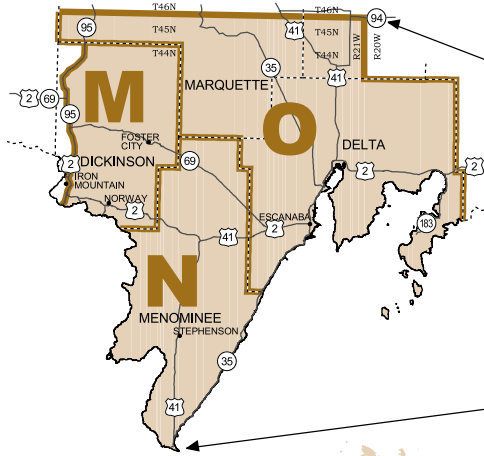
If any licenses remain after the drawing, unsuccessful applicants may purchase one leftover license in person at any license dealer on a first-come, first-served basis for a one-week period beginning September 13 at 10 a.m. (EDT). Any licenses that remain as of September 20 at 10 a.m. (EDT) also will be available for purchase over the counter by individuals who did not apply for a fall wild turkey license. These licenses will be sold until the quota is met.

**REPORT ALL POACHING**

**Call: 800-292-7800**



## Upper Peninsula Units Shaded Area Only

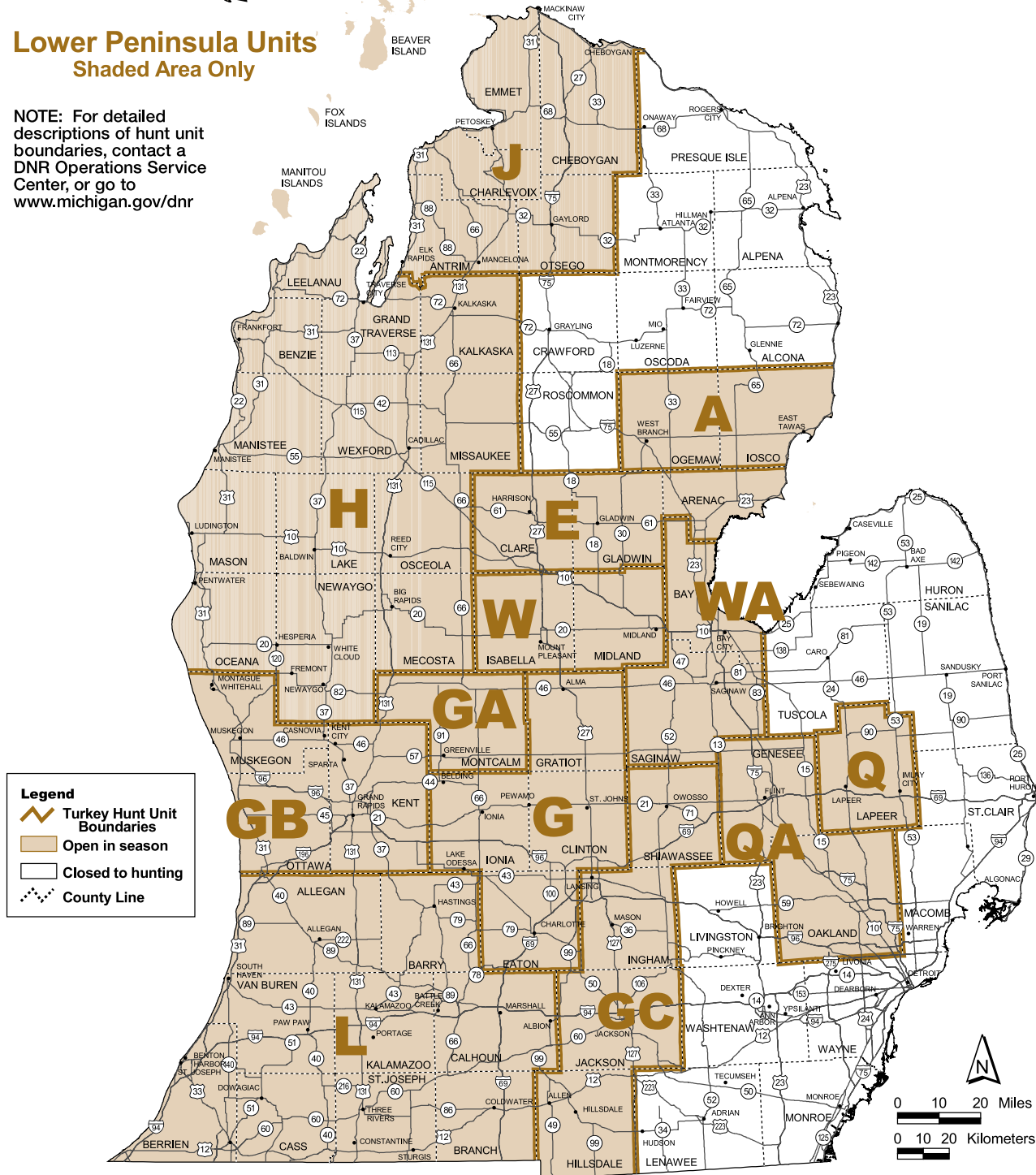


# 2002 Fall Turkey Hunting Units



## Lower Peninsula Units Shaded Area Only

NOTE: For detailed descriptions of hunt unit boundaries, contact a DNR Operations Service Center, or go to [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)





## How to Apply

- 1 Look at the map and choose a hunt unit.
- 2 Find the hunt number for the hunt unit you chose. You may make only one choice.
- 3 Complete worksheet.
- 4 Apply at a license agent or online at [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)
- 5 Check your receipt. Retain receipt as proof of application.

## 2002 Fall Wild Turkey Hunt Tables

### General Licenses

The general licenses listed below are valid on all land within the unit.

HUNT NUMBERS	HUNT UNIT	OPEN SEASON	LICENSE QUOTA
401	A	October 7–November 9	900
402	E	October 7–November 9	1,700
403	J	October 7–November 9	2,000
404	M	October 7–November 9	1,230
405	N	October 7–November 9	550
406	O	October 7–November 9	1,080

### Private Land Only Licenses

The private land licenses listed below are not valid on county, state or federal lands. You are encouraged to have permission to hunt private lands before applying for one of these licenses.

HUNT NUMBERS	HUNT UNIT	OPEN SEASON	LICENSE QUOTA
407	G	October 7–November 9	2,500
408	GA	October 7–November 9	2,000
409	GB	October 7–November 9	1,800
410	GC	October 7–November 9	1,200
411	H	October 7–November 9	5,100
412	L	October 7–November 9	9,000
413	M	October 7–November 9	1,230
414	N	October 7–November 9	1,650
415	O	October 7–November 9	1,600
416	Q	October 7–November 9	400
417	QA	October 7–November 9	400
418	W	October 7–November 9	3,400
419	WA	October 7–November 9	200

# Worksheet

The license agent will ask for the following information when applying:

1. Your birth date?                  \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_
2. Customer ID number?        Michigan Driver License, state of Michigan ID Card,  
or DNR Sportcard
3. Application item type?      160 Fall Turkey Application
4. Joining existing party?  
(Parties may not  
exceed 2 people)             No, if applying by yourself or you are the first person in a party  
to apply; (Go to item 6).  
Yes, if joining a partner (Go to item 5).
5. Party ID number?            (\_\_\_\_\_)    (Same number as printed on your partner's  
receipt; none, if applying by yourself)
6. Hunt Number                \_\_\_\_\_  
(See table for hunt numbers)

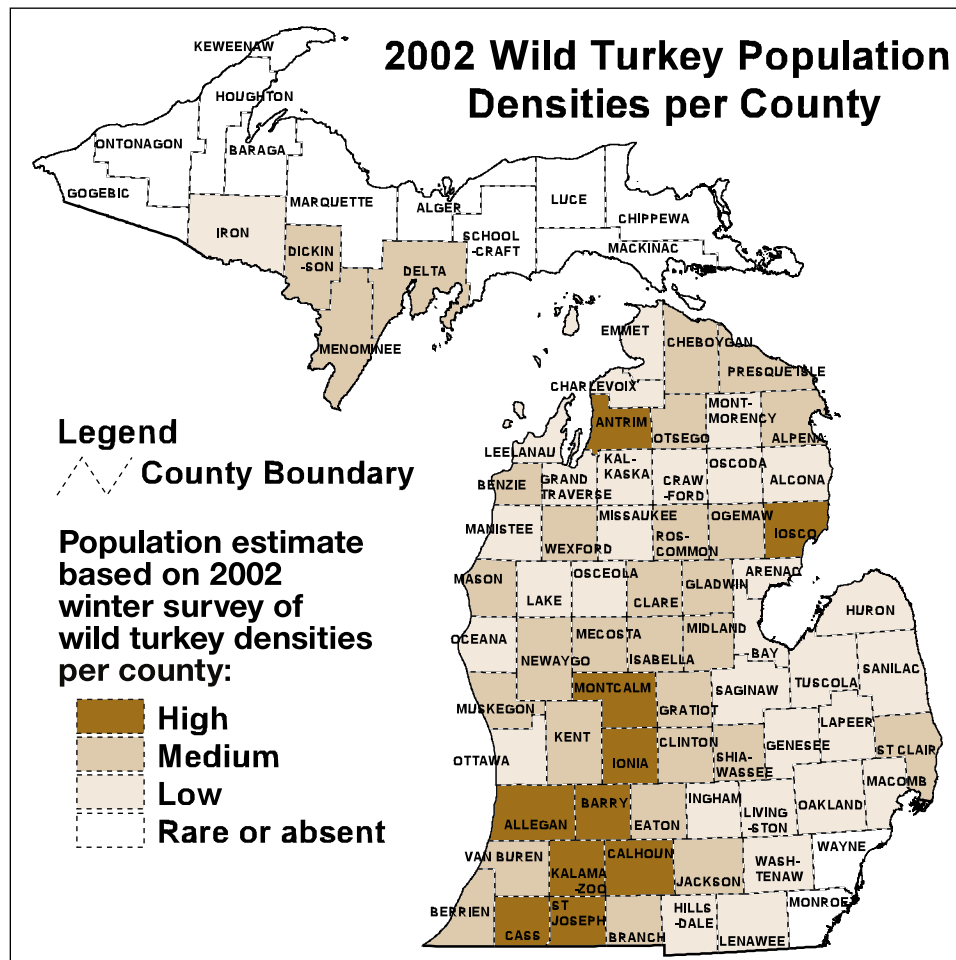
**Note:** You must get a new party ID number each year, even if you apply for the same hunt number and have the same partner.

## 2002 Fall Workshop Dates

The DNR, Michigan Wild Turkey Hunters Association and other groups are cooperating to offer wild turkey hunter orientation courses. The training sessions are open to anyone and may include turkey hunting methods, calling, regulations and population status. A fee may be charged and space may be limited. For details, contact:

September 28—Clare, Michigan Wild Turkey Hunters Association, Jay's Sporting Goods,  
Jim Maturen (231) 832-2575

September 28—Davison, Flint River Chapter-National Wild Turkey Federation, Williams Gun Sight Company, Jim Miller (810) 736-1570



## Wild Turkey Hunting Tips, Ethics and Safety

An important component to successful fall turkey hunting is locating birds. Scout for tracks, fresh droppings and feathers. Good areas for sighting flocks are in idle fields and woodlands and near logging trails.

In fall, turkeys spend most of their time feeding on insects and mast crops like acorns. Locate a good food source where birds are congregating and learn the habits of the birds.

Listen for the sounds of birds scratching in the leaves or listen for their “flock talk” as they come and go to roost. Roosting flocks may produce a wide variety of yelps, clucks, kee-kees and gobbles.

Once a flock has been located, one hunting tactic is to scatter the flock. Approach the flock within 50 yards and flush the birds so they will scatter. A dispersed flock normally will begin to regroup within 15 to 30 minutes near the original point of separation.

Quickly set up at this spot. Begin calling the turkeys by imitating the same sounds made by the birds as the flock begins to reassemble. Poults will give the kee-kee lost call mixed with yelps and clucks. Answer every turkey call heard with similar tone, pitch and rhythm. Using a decoy also may help fool birds into approaching your location.

Successful hunters sit still and allow the birds to come to them. Being camouflaged doesn't make you invisible. Movement is the greatest enemy of the turkey hunter. A turkey can detect and react to movement 10 times faster than a human. Even though camouflaged, you still are an unnatural form in the woods.

Don't attempt to stalk a turkey. First that gobbler or hen you're stalking may turn out to be another hunter. Second, your chances of success are poor. At best, you might get a glimpse of tail feathers.

Don't jump and turn at a turkey approaching from behind. The chance of getting a good shot is very slim. Be patient, remain still and let the bird pass.

Assume another person is making every sound you hear. Many turkey hunters are very convincing callers. Always keep a safe distance. If a bird turns out to be another hunter, it could be very dangerous.

If another hunter is working a flock, don't interfere by calling or spooking the birds. Always give other hunters the same respect that you expect.

In fall, both hens and gobblers are legal targets. Make sure the bird is within range of the shotgun and shoot at the neck and head only. If the bird is close enough to kill with a body shot, you will have ruined some of the finest eating you will ever have.

Know the capabilities and limitations of your gun or bow and use it safely.

Be positive of your target. Once you pull the trigger, it is too late!

Do your homework before the season begins--scouting, practicing calling, patterning your gun, etc. The American wild turkey is the most difficult game in North America to hunt one on one. Give yourself all the advantages you can.

Report all turkey poachers by calling the DNR Report All Poaching Hotline at 800-292-7800. To help protect local flocks, several conservation groups throughout the state provide a reward for evidence leading to the conviction of anyone illegally killing a wild turkey.

# Department of Natural Resources Directory

## WILDLIFE

P.O. BOX 30444 • LANSING MI 48909-7944 • 517-373-1263

[www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)

Violations (RAP) .....800-292-7800

TTY (Hearing Impaired) .....517-241-2863

The DNR Operations Service Centers listed below are open  
Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Baraga  
427 US-41 North  
Baraga, MI 49908  
906-353-6651

Marquette  
1990 US-41 South  
Marquette, MI 49855  
906-228-6561

Newberry  
5100 M-123  
Newberry, MI 49868  
906-293-5131

Gaylord  
1732 W. M-32  
Gaylord, MI 49735  
989-732-3541

Cadillac  
8015 Mackinaw Trail  
Cadillac, MI 49601  
231-775-9727

Bay City  
503 N. Euclid Ave., Suite 1  
Bay City, MI 48706  
989-684-9141

Livonia  
38980 Seven Mile Rd.  
Livonia, MI 48152  
734-953-0241

Plainwell  
621 N. 10th St.  
Plainwell, MI 49080  
616-685-6851

Roscommon  
1-75 & M-18 South  
8717 N. Roscommon Rd.  
Roscommon, MI 48653  
989-275-5151

## Equal Rights for Natural Resource Users

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For information or assistance on this publication, contact the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Box 30444, Lansing, MI 48909-7944. TTY: Michigan Relay Center 800-649-3777. This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.

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